

Newsletter

Friday 3rd December 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

With Thanks

We begin this week's newsletter by thanking everyone for their condolences, prayers and offers of support during the past week. If your son or daughter requires any further support in the coming days and weeks, please do not hesitate to contact the college.



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Omicron COVID variant measures

As parents will be aware, as a result of the emergence of the Omicron variant, schools are now being asked to review COVID measures. Measures that have been reintroduced or reinforced include:

- Wearing of face coverings in communal areas (exemptions still apply)
- Twice-weekly Lateral Flow Testing at home by all staff and students (home test kits can be provided to students by school on request)
- Encouraging vaccination for anyone who is eligible but still unvaccinated

A return to NHS Track and Trace guidance and self-isolation periods for those who test positive **for the Omicron variant**

Further details on this can be seen in the letter from Liverpool City Council included in this newsletter, including information of vaccination <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns> and bookable drop-in vaccination clinics offered by the CCG <https://www.liverpoolccg.nhs.uk/drop-in-vaccination>.

Changes to forthcoming evening events

Further to the measures listed above, next **Thursday's Year 11 Parents' Evening** (9th December) will now have to be held virtually using the SchoolCloud portal. We had hoped to be able to host this in person but updated guidance now advises against holding such events under the current circumstances. This also means that our annual **Carols by Candlelight** event will not be able to take place this year.

This will all come as a disappointment to many, but we do so in the very best interests of every member of our Notre Dame community and to maintain a continuous education to all students during this latest setback in the pandemic. Please be aware that as this week has progressed staff absence has also been affected by this and college staff have worked tirelessly to minimise the impact of this absence on students' learning. We will, of course, continue to do so and thank you for your support and understanding as we manage these current challenges as well as we possibly can.

In the meantime, we wish every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe weekend.

Mr Duffy



Royal British Legion POPPY APPEAL



Thank you very much
NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC COLLEGE
for helping our Appeal

You collected

AMELIA'S DAY

A big 'thank you' to all students, parents and carers for your help and support with 'Amelia's Day'
Your generosity and kindness meant we raised an amazing £1290.20 for Claire's House Children's Hos-
pice!!! **Thank you once again.**



28th November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

A new COVID-19 variant of concern has been identified in the UK amidst high local infection rates. Concerns are that the new variant, called Omicron, can spread more quickly and may be more likely to cause reinfections of COVID-19. It is essential we act now to stop infections spreading in our homes, schools and communities.

From today, the Department for Education states, **'face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings for Year 7 and above by staff, visitors and pupils or students'**, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should also continue to wear face coverings on **public and dedicated school transport**, unless exempt.

Parents and carers, staff and visitors should wear face coverings both inside and around school premises where social distancing cannot be maintained such as **pick up and drop off** times. This guidance is further to the Liverpool Health Protection Board recommendations issued in October 2021.

Testing

In order to reduce any further impact on schools leading into Christmas, it is essential that eligible students continue to test weekly using the lateral flow devices provided to students by their schools. Testing helps identify cases early, and therefore reduces the likelihood of COVID-19 spreading within schools. Please make sure students are testing regularly (twice weekly), and report the results on the government website.

Vaccination

We must do everything we can to reduce both the current variants and any new variants from spreading through schools. All eligible adults and students aged 12 and over are strongly encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. There has been some coverage in the media suggesting that the Omicron variant may be less responsive to the vaccine. The evidence on this is still emerging, but even if the vaccine is less responsive it will still help to protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. Any parents whose children have missed the opportunity to be

vaccinated as part of the school vaccination programme will be able to book a vaccine [here](#).

Contact tracing and the Omicron Variant

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test.

We appreciate everything you are doing to help us with this and thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Matt Ashton

Director of Public Health, Liverpool

Steve Reddy

Director of Children's Service, Liverpool

Key actions people can take to keep themselves and their communities safe

- Get vaccinated
- Get your booster when it's your turn
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>
- Continue to test regularly – with lateral flow tests
- Wear face coverings in communal areas and when advised / appropriate to do so
- Wear face coverings on public and school transport
- Maximise ventilation
- Maintain good hygiene – wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser
- Self-isolate if not well with covid symptoms, and get PCR test asap
- Self-isolate if asked by NHS Test and Trace

MATHS

Who are we?

Mr Cameron, Mrs Thomas, Miss Munro, Mrs Crosbie, Miss Hargreaves, Miss Marshall, Miss Gabbitas, Mr Hughes, Miss Snowden, Miss Deasy

6th Form

Our A level mathematicians have started their weekly tuition sessions with Mr Weng. This is a unique offering at Notre Dame and has seen the students grow in confidence!

What we are currently studying

Year 7

Year 7 will be moving onto statistics looking at measures of central tendency and ways of analysing data.

Year 8

Year 8 will be moving onto work on ratio as well as looking into new areas of probability within statistics.

Year 9

Year 9 will be introduced to concepts of proportion and proportionality as well as work on accuracy.

Year 10

Year 10 will be working with percentages, looking at real life scenarios of compound interest and depreciations as well as reverse percentages.

Year 11

Congratulations to year 11 for completing their first round of mock examinations, it has been an intense week for them and it is evident they have worked hard. They will continue with the curriculum from next week and will continue to prepare for their summer examinations looking further into solving equations and trigonometry.



Mathswatch Login Reminders

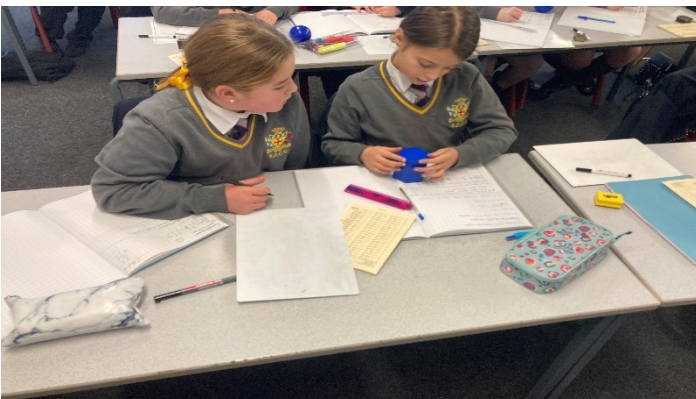
All Key stage 3 homework will be set on Mathswatch weekly. As well as this KS4 revision is available on there too.

<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

Students have all been given their Login's and these have been posted on classcharts!

Properties of 3D shapes with year 7

Year 7 have been working on properties of 3D shapes to discover Euler's Formula for Polyhedra
 $F + V - E = 2$





PROBLEM SOLVING

Can you solve these three tricky problems prizes will be given to any student with three perfect solutions?

Can you spot the mistake in this algebra?

$$a=b$$

$$a^2=ab$$

$$a^2 + a^2 = a^2 + ab$$

$$2a^2 = a^2 + ab$$

$$2a^2 - 2ab = a^2 + ab - 2ab$$

$$2a^2 - 2ab = a^2 - ab$$

$$2(a^2 - ab) = 1(a^2 - ab)$$

$$2 = 1$$

How many squares are there on a chessboard?
Think carefully (it's not 64!)



If you are aware of BIDMAS then this seems wrong. But it is actually correct.
Can you explain why?

$$230 - 220 \times 0.5 = 5!$$

Congratulations on AP1

Much to the students' relief their AP1 assessments are now complete and we are busy marking them. Well done to all students for putting in maximum effort for these assessments and for behaving impeccably throughout. Results will be given to students next week and will be on their term 1 reports.

ENRICHMENT

Boccia Tournament

On Tuesday 23rd November fifteen of our Y7 students took part in the Boccia Tournament held at Fazakerley High School. Twelve teams took part with one of our teams going through to the final.





20 Year 10 GCSE P.E. students helped with the running of the Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics competition.

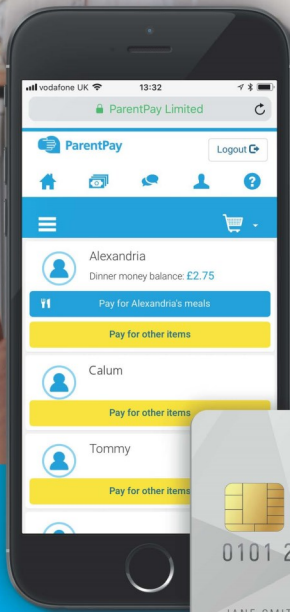
This was held in Everton Sports Centre and run by the LSSP

20 Primary school took part in the competition

THE EASY WAY TO PAY

We're using ParentPay so parents
can easily pay online for school
dinners, trips and clubs.

No stress, hassle free.



**SIMPLE
QUICK
SAFE**



www.parentpay.com



ParentPay
COUNT ON US

VISA

VISA Checkout



SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS



Important Contacts

If you currently need support for your mental health or well being these are some of the organisations who are happy to listen and help

Anxiety UK

03444775774 (Helpline)

075374160905 (Text)

Childline

0800 1111 (Free 24 hr helpline)

Papyrus Hotline

(Under 35s at risk of suicide or concerned for another)

0800 068 4141

07786209697 (text)

The Mix

(Support & Advice for under 25s)

0808 068 4994

85258 (Text THEMIX)

Young Minds

0808 803 5544 (Parent helpline)

85258 (Free 24hr crisis messenger, text YM)

Young Stonewall

Information & support for young people who identify as LGBTQ

0800 050 2020

Samaritans

Support for anyone who needs to talk

116 123 (Call)

Bullybusters

0800 169 6928

Please refer to the school website for further contact details/ websites

If you feel a child is at risk

(suffering harm, neglect or abuse)

Any member of the public can contact

Careline on 0151 233 3700 or

Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010

CAMHS Crisis Care Team

Supporting children and young people in crisis regarding self-harm, suicidal ideation and acute mental health difficulties. Speak to a mental health practitioner 24hrs/day

Childline - www.childline.org.uk

• Childline is available to you if you have any concerns about:

- Bullying
- Abuse (physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, neglect)
- Your body and self esteem
- Your feelings
- Friendships
- Sexual advice
- Home life and families
- School

• You can ring them on 0800 1111 or message them online here <https://www.childline.org.uk/registration/>

• There are loads of resources available for you to download and read as well <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>



Domestic Abuse/Violence

Please remember, in an emergency dial 999 for immediate assistance.

You can call 999 without speaking then pressing 55, or tapping or coughing into the phone.

This will enable police to respond

Women's Aid

0808 2000 247 (24 hr helpline)

Men's Advice Line

0808 801 0327

Worst Kept Secret Helpline Merseyside

0800 028 3398



SAFEGUARDING

CONTACT US

Email: sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk

Emails are answered within 24 hrs Mon—Fri 9-3

Phone: 0151 330 5122

PC P Wood Schools Safer Police Officer



The Safeguarding Team

Headteacher – Mr P Duffy
Deputy Headteacher - Mrs AM Costello

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs E Brennan – Senior Assistant Headteacher



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs J Littleboy – Assistant Head of Year
Mr D McKeon – Leadership - Director of Behaviour
Mr A McVerry – Leadership - SENCO

PC P Wood – school's safer police officer
Leadership/ Alternative Provision – Miss H McCullen
Attendance Officer – Mrs P Shrimpton
Special Educational Needs – Mrs K Sweeney
Pastoral Assistant Heads of Year – Ms R Glorman Y7, Mrs Doran Y8, Mrs E Garvey Y10, Miss C Lee Y11

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18

CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H*!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES TikTok, appm



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.11.2021

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



Drop in every Tuesday & Thursday
08.15 – 09.15
in
The Suite
(Next to referral)



Sometimes the smallest
things take up the most room
in our minds

WHISPER



whisper@ndcc

Who can use whisper@ndcc? *parents/carers/students*



- Do you need to inform the safeguarding team about a safeguarding issue?
- Would you like to do it anonymously?
 - *Neglect * Abuse * **Bullying** *Sexual harassment *Peer on Peer abuse *Threats
 - ***Criminal exploitation** *Drugs/Alcohol ***Worried about a friend**
- Use the QR code to access the online form or <https://forms.office.com/r/WfTPCfWANz>
- You can either fill in your name on the form or you can fill out the information anonymously – it is up to you! If you fill out your name and leave a contact number we will contact you.
- We **all** have a responsibility to help our young people before they come to harm
- The online reports will be monitored during term time and will be checked on a daily basis Monday to Friday
- **Remember – if someone is at risk you should phone Careline 0151 2333700 , if it is an emergency phone 999**

COVID ADVICE

Schools have been communicating directly with families and carers and keeping their individual websites updated and should always be the first place to go for advice about plans for getting back into the classroom.

However, we have put together the following frequently asked questions to answer some of the general questions about going back to school...

How do the [self-isolation changes of 16 August](#) affect school attendance?

If children and young people (aged 18 years & 6 months and under) have not tested positive for Covid, and they are not otherwise ill they are expected to be in school.

Anyone aged under 18 and 6 months who has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive is no longer required to self-isolate unless the child also has symptoms. They are advised to take a PCR test but they do not have to isolate whilst they wait for the results.

Students who are aged 18 years & 6 months and over will be treated as adults under the guidance and will not be expected to self-isolate if they have had a close contact provided they have received both Covid vaccinations and 14 days have passed since the second dose.

You can find out where drop-in Covid vaccination clinics are on [Liverpool CCG's website](#).

I think my child has Covid, what should I do?

If your child has symptoms, [please book a PCR test](#) and isolate until you have the results. If you receive a positive test result the child should self-isolate following the national guidance. If you need support whilst your family is self-isolating there is information on the [council's website](#).

Will children still be expected to take lateral flow tests (LFTs)?

Testing is voluntary, but it is encouraged as it is still one of the best ways to break the chain of infection.

We're encouraging secondary school pupils to take an LFT **before** they return to school.

When schools return, government guidance will be followed:

Nursery and primary school children – Do not need to take LFTs.

Secondary school pupils and college students – In the first week of term, two LFTs will be taken at school three to five days apart. In following weeks, two LFTs to be taken at home each week until the end of September.

Will testing continue after the end of September?

There will be a national review of all testing in September 2021 and this will inform the role of testing in school and other settings

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow test?

They should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years or are fully vaccinated.

Will pupils still be part of bubbles?

Bubbles were introduced to limit contact between groups. Schools are no longer required to do this, but they may be considered if there is an outbreak at the school.

What happens if there are positive cases in schools?

All schools and colleges are required to have outbreak management plans. Action may need to be taken if certain thresholds are met. If risks change significantly the Director of Public Health is able to implement further or different measures to protect population health.

Will school continue to inform us if there are positive cases in school?

Public Health England are currently advising schools that it is not necessary to send *warn and inform* letters for each pupil case. Parents will be informed if additional controls from the outbreak management plan need to be put in place.

Meanwhile schools will continue to maintain COVID prevention measures. This includes maximising ventilation, encouraging good hygiene, thorough cleaning and ensuring that anyone with COVID symptoms or positive test results do not come in to school.

Will children be made to have a vaccination?

No-one will be made to have a vaccination, but having both doses of the vaccination is still the best way of preventing people from becoming very ill with Covid-19.

The national vaccination programme is now open to anyone aged 16 and over. Sixteen and 17-year-olds will be contacted by their GPs and are not able to book vaccinations online.

I would like my child to have a vaccination as there is someone in my household who is vulnerable but my child is younger than 16.

Vaccinations are being offered to 12-15-year-olds if they have an underlying health condition or if someone they live with is immunosuppressed. You should speak to your child's GP.

Will my child have to wear a face covering in the classroom?

Guidance states that face coverings do not need to be worn in the classroom. But if your child travels to school or college on public transport that is crowded and they can't socially distance it is a good idea to wear a face covering if they are able.

Parents are encouraged to wear face coverings at the school gates particularly if social distancing isn't possible.

Will normal school activities now be taking place?

Yes, activities such as sports, singing, playing wind or brass instruments, and going on trips and excursions are now allowed to take place.

My child is anxious about returning to school is there any support?

The last year and a half has been especially tough for our children and young people. If your child is worried about returning to the classroom please speak to the school in the first instance. They can also get help and advice online such as at www.kooth.com

ATTENDANCE & UNIFORM

Attendance and Punctuality

The school's attendance officer is Mrs P Shrimpton

From 3rd September 2021 all students are expected to attend school.

All students should arrive at school before 8:40 a.m. to ensure they have enough time to be at their form classes for 8:45 a.m. Parents/carers must ensure that students leave home in plenty of time to get to school on time.

Breakfast - Students are able to have breakfast in school after 8 a.m. in the lower canteen

Appointments - Please do not make medical / dental appointments for students during school hours. Any appointments during school time will only be authorised with a letter or appointment card.

Holidays - Term Dates are included in this newsletter - please do not book holidays during term times. Any holidays booked during term time will be unauthorised unless with the prior agreement of the headteacher.

Pastoral Team

If you need to speak to a member of the pastoral team you can contact them via class charts messages.

Mrs Brennan - Senior Assistant Headteacher

Mr McKeon - Leadership Team / Director of Behaviour

Mr Campbell - Leadership Team / Director of Behaviour

Year 7 - Head of Year - Miss Wishart Assistant Head of Year - Ms Glorman

Year 8 - Head of Year - Mr Appleton Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Doran

Year 9 - Head of Year - Mrs Crosslind Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Littleboy

Year 10 - Head of Year - Mr Bond Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Garvey

Year 11 - Head of Year - Mrs Smith Assistant Head of Year - Ms Lee

Uniform standards

Please find attached the appropriate shoe guidance which is part of our school uniform. Parents/carers were provided with a letter regarding uniform and the details of appropriate shoes in the summer term. The information is also available on the school website. If pupils come into school with the wrong footwear from Monday 6th September 2021 they will be given an alternative pair of shoes provided by school. Any queries please speak to your son/daughter's Head of Year.

ACCEPTABLE AND NON-ACCEPTABLE SHOES



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



Plain Black Patent



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Non-Polishable Shoe
Trainer**



**Embellishment not same colour as shoe
Embellishment not flat to shoe
Open toe**



Embellishment not same colour as shoe